

Exhibit No. 55Date 3-18-11Amendments to House Bill No. 2  
3rd Reading CopyBill No. HB2

Requested by Senator Carol Williams

For the Senate Finance and Claims Committee

Prepared by Kris Wilkinson

March 18, 2011 (10:38pm)

1. Page B-3

**Following:** line 23**Insert:** "c. Big Sky Rx GF(Restricted/OTO) "**Insert:** "2,583,251 2,583,251" [general fund FY 12 FY 13]

2. Page B-4.

**Following:** line 8**Insert:** "b. Area Agencies on Aging (Restricted/OTO) "**Insert:** "1,500,000 1,500,000" [general fund FY 12 FY 13]

3. Page B-4.

**Following:** line 24**Insert:** "Big Sky Rx GF and Area Agencies on Aging are contingent on passage and approval of a bill allowing the transfer of revenues from the older Montana trust fund."

- END -

Explanation - This amendment reduces funds in the Older Montana Trust Fund, transfers the funding to the general fund and provides for restricted, one-time-only appropriations to the Big Sky Rx Program in Health Resources Division and grants for Area Agencies on Aging in the Senior and Long-term Care Division. A bill to implement the provisions of HB 2 would need to be drafted or amended to include the transfers of a portion of the trust and the transfer of the general fund. The balance in the trust fund after the transfers would be \$1.619 million.

Item 1 of the amendment fully restores the Big Sky Rx program to the level proposed in the executive budget and restores services to program participants that are between 135% and 200 % of the federal poverty level. The program provides assistance to purchase Medicare Part D drug coverage. The amendment increases general fund by \$2,583,251 each year of the biennium for a total of \$5,166,502.

Item 2 provides for funding for Area Agencies on Aging serving elderly Montanans by providing such services as Meals on Wheels, congregate meals, support for senior centers, and respite care.